

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1549 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to conduct a study of the historical vehicle and year of manufacture license plate programs.

This bill mandates a premature and likely unnecessary report. Last year, I signed Assembly Bill 462 to expand the year of manufacture license plate program to include more vehicles. Because that legislation does not go into effect until July 1, 2009, it is premature to ask the DMV to conduct a study on the success of this license plate program only six months after significant changes to the program. I would add that last year's legislation was passed and signed into law without the need for any costly report.

Additionally, in this year of very limited revenue, I cannot sign this bill since it would require the expenditure of state resources that could be used more effectively elsewhere. Although the bill provides for the funding of the study through private donations, state resources would still be expended to track and monitor donations, develop and process a bid package, and produce the required report.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger